

FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

MAYOR BOB KISS

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CITY RECEIVES PLANNING GRANT TO ENHANCE CITY HALL PARK

In an effort led by Burlington City Arts, the City has received a \$50,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to develop a master plan for City Hall Park. The goal of the grant is to identify ways that City Hall Park's vitality and livability can be enhanced through long-term planning.

Also involved in obtaining this important grant was the Community and Economic

Development Office, Parks and Recreation Department, Burlington Business Association, Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Merchants Bank, Preservation Trust of Vermont, and the King Street Youth Center.

Burlington City Arts will begin with a public engagement process to invite input on the community's vision for City Hall Park.



Burlington ranks 8th among 75 Mid-Size Cities for Volunteerism



The 2011 *Volunteering in America* report lists the Burlington area 8th among 75 comparable cities in the area of volunteerism. The *Volunteering In America* report is a partnership between the Corporation for National and Commu-

nity Service, the U.S. Census Bureau, and the Bureau for Labor Statistics to collect volunteering data annually through the Current Population Survey's (CPS) Supplement on Volunteering.

The report covers 2007-2010 and shows the Burlington area with a Volunteer Rate of 37.7%, compared to 36.5% nationally, and 42 volunteer hours per resident annually, compared to 34.1 hours nationally.

Burlington's volunteerism has been supported in many ways by the City's VISTA program. This past

year, CEDO VISTAs recruited 842 volunteers who performed 10,464 hours of service. Over the 17 years of the city's VISTA program, members recruited tens of thousands of volunteers statewide!



Mayor Kiss has his blood pressure taken on Church Street at a Community Health Center of Burlington table recognizing National Health Center Week 2011 (Photo Courtesy of the Community Health Center).

..... FROM MAYOR KISS



Federal Budget Issues

Burlington residents and all Americans should be disappointed in the recent resolution of the federal debt ceiling. There's no question that the debt ceiling limit needed to be raised. To do so while cutting government programs and not increasing tax revenues to invest in America at a critical economic point has serious consequences.

Even many conservative economists concede that maintaining or increasing government spending is one of

the solutions to a stalled economy, not a cause. Reduced investment in America risks derailing what is already a difficult national economic recovery.

Raising revenues would have signaled a willingness to shore up the nation's infrastructure, support people's needs, and create forward momentum for residents and businesses alike. Instead, the threat of the debt ceiling was used to further conservative political and economic interests, but not the public interest.

These decisions will have an impact on Burlington and other cities across the country. Federal cutbacks inevitably pressure local resources when cities and local agencies & organizations are forced to fill the gaps.

Despite this prospect, Burlington has been and will continue to be

successful. We've seen new commercial development, implementation of an ambitious street paving program, downtown improvement projects which will enhance livability and economic activity, and a continued focus on meeting people's needs.

We will continue to need the federal government as a partner. The economic solution should include increased tax revenues for those who can pay and renewed investment in America.

With best regards,

Bob Kiss, Mayor

Contact Mayor Kiss at: mayor@ci.burlington.vt.us or www.ci.burlington.vt.us/mayor
Follow Mayor Kiss on Facebook: Bob Kiss (government official)

CALAHAN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN OPENS!

Mayor Kiss attended the grand opening of the Calahan Park Community Garden August 10. This new site brings 40 additional plots to the City's community gardening program, thanks to the efforts of Southend residents, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of Burlington Gardens, Resource Youthbuild, Burlington Permaculture, and City Market, among many others.

Burlington's Community Garden program has approximately 1000 participants gardening 6 acres of tillable land over 12 different sites. To find out more about Burlington's Community Gardening program, go to www.enjoyburlington.com/Programs/CommunityGardens.cfm or call 864-0123!



Mayor Kiss at the Calahan Community Garden grand opening (Photo: Dan Cahill).